

AMENDMENTS

In the Claims

Marked Up Version Of The Pending Claims under 37 C.F.R. 1.121(c)(1)(ii):

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.121(c)(1)(ii), the Applicant submits the following marked up version only for claims being changed by the current amendment, wherein the markings are shown by strikethrough (for deleted matter) and/or underlining (for added matter):

1. (currently amended) An apparatus comprising:
a local area network operably coupled to at least one positron emission tomography imaging system;
a dispensing station to receive a multidose vial of a radiotracer, and to dispense portions of the radiotracer to a plurality of ~~at least two~~ positron emission tomography imaging systems, the dispensing station being operably coupled to the local area network; and
a control system operably coupled to the local area network and operable to receive status information from, and send commands to, the plurality of ~~at least two~~ positron emission tomography imaging systems and the dispensing station.
2. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a quality control unit to monitor the radionuclic and chemical purity of the radiotracer that is dispensed by the dispensing station, the quality control unit being operably coupled to the local area network, operably coupled to the control system and operably coupled to the dispensing station.

3. (original)The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the local area network is further operably coupled to a radioisotope producer and wherein the dispensing station receives the radioisotope from the radioisotope producer.
4. (original)The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the radioisotope producer further comprises a cyclotron.
5. (original)The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the radioisotope producer further comprises a linear accelerator.
6. (original)The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the radioisotope producer further comprises a radioisotope generator.
7. (original)The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the apparatus further comprises being mounted on wheels.
8. (original)The apparatus of claim 1, wherein a radioactivity shield surrounds portions of the apparatus that are radioactive.
9. (original)The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the radiotracer further comprises nitrogen-13 ammonia.
10. (original)The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the radiotracer further comprises fluorodeoxyglucose.
11. (withdrawn)currently amended)The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the at least one positron emission tomography imaging system further comprises a plurality of positron emission tomography imaging systems.

12. (original)The apparatus of claim 1, wherein each positron emission tomography imaging system further comprises:

 a computer system having a graphical user interface operably coupled to the local area network;

 an injector system to extract at least one individual dose from the radiotracer and to inject the at least one individual dose into the living subject, the injector system being operably coupled to the local area network; and

 a physiologic monitoring system operably coupled to the injector system and operably coupled to the living subject.

13. (original)The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the amount of each individual dose is calculated based on the radioactive half-life of the radiotracer, the projected time of injection into a living subject and high level descriptors of the living subject.

14. (original)The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the high level descriptors of the living subject further comprise the weight, sex and physical dimensions of the living subject.

15. (original)The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the control system further comprises a computer system.

16. (currently amended)A medical radiopharmaceutical administration system comprising:

 a local area network operably coupled to ~~a plurality of at least two~~ positron emission tomography imaging systems and operably coupled to a radioisotope producer;

a chemical synthesizer operably coupled to the radioisotope producer, to receive the radioisotope, and to produce a radiotracer;

a dispensing station to receive from the chemical synthesizer a liquid radiotracer in quantities suitable for multiple doses of the radiopharmaceutical, and to dispense the radiopharmaceutical to the plurality of at least two positron emission tomography imaging systems, the dispensing station being operably coupled to the local area network; and

a control system operably coupled to the local area network, to receive status information from, and send commands to, the plurality of at least two positron emission tomography imaging systems and the dispensing station.

17. (previously presented) The medical radiopharmaceutical administration system of claim 16, further comprising a quality control unit to monitor the radionuclic and chemical purity of the radiopharmaceutical that is dispensed by the dispensing station, the quality control unit being operably coupled to the local area network, operably coupled to the control system and operably coupled to the dispensing station.

18. (original) The medical radiopharmaceutical administration system of claim 16, wherein the radioisotope producer further comprises a cyclotron.

19. (original) The medical radiopharmaceutical administration system of claim 16, wherein the radioisotope producer further comprises a linear accelerator.

20. (original) The medical radiopharmaceutical administration system of claim 16, wherein the radioisotope producer further comprises a radioisotope generator.

21. (original)The medical radiopharmaceutical administration system of claim 16, wherein the system further comprises being mounted on wheels.
22. (original)The medical radiopharmaceutical administration system of claim 16, wherein the radiotracer is selected from the group consisting of nitrogen-13 ammonia and fluorodeoxyglucose.
23. (withdrawn)The medical radiopharmaceutical administration system of claim 16, wherein the at least one positron emission tomography imaging system further comprises a plurality of positron emission tomography imaging systems.
24. (currently amended)The medical radiopharmaceutical administration system of claim 16, wherein each of the plurality of at least two positron emission tomography imaging systems further comprises:
 - a computer system having a graphical user interface operably coupled to the local area network;
 - an injector system to extract at least one individual dose from the liquid radiopharmaceutical and to inject the at least one individual dose into the living subject, the injector system being operably coupled to the local area network; and
 - a physiologic monitoring system operably coupled to the injector system and operably coupled to the living subject.
25. (original)The medical radiopharmaceutical administration system of claim 24, wherein the amount of each individual dose is calculated based on type of radiopharmaceutical, a predefined parametric equation, clinical protocol being followed and high level descriptors of the living subject, wherein the high level

descriptors of the living subject further comprise the weight, sex and physical dimensions of the living subject.

26. (currently amended) A portable medical radiopharmaceutical administration system comprising:

a local area network operably coupled to a plurality of at least two positron emission tomography imaging systems;

a dispensing station to receive a liquid radiopharmaceutical in quantities suitable for multiple doses of the radiopharmaceutical, and to dispense the radiopharmaceutical to the plurality of at least two positron emission tomography imaging systems, the dispensing station being operably coupled to the local area network;

a quality control unit being operably coupled to the dispensing station;

a control system operably coupled to the local area network, to receive status information from, and send commands to, the plurality of at least two positron emission tomography imaging systems, the dispensing station, and the quality control unit;

a radioactivity shield that surrounds portions of the medical radiopharmaceutical administration system that are radioactive; and wheels mounted to the shield.

27. (original) The portable medical radiopharmaceutical administration system of claim 26, wherein the portions of the system that are radioactive further comprise the dispensing station and the quality control unit.

28. (original) The portable medical radiopharmaceutical administration system of claim 26, wherein the local area network is further operably coupled to a radioisotope

producer and wherein the dispensing station receives the liquid radiopharmaceutical from the radioisotope producer.

29. (original)The portable medical radiopharmaceutical administration system of claim 28, wherein the radioisotope producer further comprises a cyclotron.

30. (original)The portable medical radiopharmaceutical administration system of claim 28, wherein the radioisotope producer further comprises a linear accelerator.

31. (original)The portable medical radiopharmaceutical administration system of claim 28, wherein the radioisotope producer further comprises a radioisotope generator.

32. (original)The portable medical radiopharmaceutical administration system of claim 26, wherein the radiopharmaceutical is selected from the group consisting of nitrogen-13, fluorine-18, carbon-11, oxygen-15 and rubidium-82.

33. (currently amended)The portable medical radiopharmaceutical administration system of claim 26, wherein each of the plurality of ~~at least two~~ positron emission tomography imaging systems further comprises:

a computer system having a graphical user interface operably coupled to the local area network;

an injector system to extract at least one individual dose from the liquid radiopharmaceutical and to inject the at least one individual dose into the living subject, the injector system being operably coupled to the local area network; and

a physiologic monitoring system operably coupled to the injector system and operably coupled to the living subject.

34. (original)The portable medical radiopharmaceutical administration system of claim 33, wherein the amount of each individual dose is calculated based on type of radiopharmaceutical, a predefined parametric equation, clinical protocol being followed and high level descriptors of the living subject, wherein the high level descriptors of the living subject further comprise the weight, sex and physical dimensions of the living subject.

35. (currently amended)A medical radiopharmaceutical administration system comprising:

a local area network operably coupled to a plurality of at least two positron emission tomography imaging systems;

a dispensing station to receive a nitrogen-13 ammonia in quantities suitable for multiple doses of the nitrogen-13 ammonia, and to dispense the nitrogen-13 ammonia to the plurality of at least two positron emission tomography imaging systems, the dispensing station being operably coupled to the local area network;

a quality control unit to monitor the amount of radiochemical and the radionuclic purity of the nitrogen-13 ammonia that is dispensed by the dispensing station, the quality control unit being operably coupled to the local area network and operably coupled to the dispensing station; and

a control system operably coupled to the local area network, to receive status information from, and send commands to, the plurality of at least two positron emission tomography imaging systems, the dispensing station, and the quality control unit.

36. (original)The medical radiopharmaceutical administration system of claim 35, wherein the local area network is further operably coupled to a radioisotope producer

selecting from the group consisting of a cyclotron, and a linear accelerator, and wherein the dispensing station receives the nitrogen-13 ammonia from the radioisotope producer.

37. (original)The medical radiopharmaceutical administration system of claim 35, wherein the system further comprises being mounted on wheels.

38. (currently amended)The medical radiopharmaceutical administration system of claim 35, wherein the plurality of ~~at least two~~ positron emission tomography imaging systems further comprises a plurality of positron emission tomography imaging systems, and wherein each of the plurality of ~~at least two~~ positron emission tomography imaging systems further comprises:

a computer system having a graphical user interface operably coupled to the local area network;

an injector system to extract at least one individual dose from the nitrogen-13 ammonia and to inject the at least one individual dose into the living subject, the injector system being operably coupled to the local area network; and

a physiologic monitoring system operably coupled to the injector system and operably coupled to the living subject.

39. (original)The medical radiopharmaceutical administration system of claim 38, wherein the amount of each individual dose is calculated based on a predefined parametric equation, clinical protocol being followed and high level descriptors of the living subject, wherein the high level descriptors of the living subject further comprise the weight, sex and physical dimensions of the living subject.

40. (currently amended) A medical radiopharmaceutical administration system comprising:

- a local area network operably coupled to a plurality of at least two positron emission tomography imaging systems;
- a dispensing station to receive liquid fluorodeoxyglucose in quantities suitable for multiple doses of the liquid fluorodeoxyglucose, and to dispense the fluorodeoxyglucose to the plurality of at least two positron emission tomography imaging systems, the dispensing station being operably coupled to the local area network; and
- a control system operably coupled to the local area network, to receive status information from, and send commands to, the plurality of at least two positron emission tomography imaging systems, the dispensing station, and the quality control unit.

41. (original) The medical radiopharmaceutical administration system of claim 40, wherein the local area network is further operably coupled to a cyclotron and wherein the dispensing station receives the liquid fluorodeoxyglucose.

42. (original) The medical radiopharmaceutical administration system of claim 40, wherein the system further comprises being mounted on wheels.

43. (currently amended) The medical radiopharmaceutical administration system of claim 40, wherein the plurality of at least two positron emission tomography imaging systems further comprises a plurality of positron emission tomography imaging systems, and wherein each of the plurality of at least two positron emission tomography imaging systems further comprises:

- a computer system having a graphical user interface operably coupled to the local area network;

an injector system to extract at least one individual dose from the liquid fluorodeoxyglucose and to inject the at least one individual dose into the living subject, the injector system being operably coupled to the local area network; and

a physiologic monitoring system operably coupled to the injector system and operably coupled to the living subject.

44. (original)The medical radiopharmaceutical administration system of claim 43, wherein the amount of each individual dose is calculated based on a predefined parametric equation, clinical protocol being followed and high level descriptors of the living subject, wherein the high level descriptors of the living subject further comprise the weight, sex and physical dimensions of the living subject.

45. (previously presented)A medical radiopharmaceutical administration system comprising:

a local area network operably coupled to a plurality of positron emission tomography imaging systems;

a dispensing station to receive a liquid radiotracer in quantities suitable for multiple doses of a radiopharmaceutical, and to dispense the radiopharmaceutical to the plurality of positron emission tomography imaging systems, the dispensing station being operably coupled to the local area network;

a quality control unit to monitor the amount of radio and the radionuclie purity of the radiopharmaceutical that is dispensed by the dispensing station, the quality control unit being operably coupled to the local area network and operably coupled to the dispensing station; and

a control system operably coupled to the local area network, to receive status information from, and send commands to, the plurality of positron

emission tomography imaging systems, the dispensing station, and the quality control unit.

46. (original)The medical radiopharmaceutical administration system of claim 45, wherein the local area network is further operably coupled to a cyclotron and wherein the dispensing station receives the liquid radiopharmaceutical from the cyclotron.

47. (original)The medical radiopharmaceutical administration system of claim 45, wherein the system further comprises being mounted on wheels.

48. (original)The medical radiopharmaceutical administration system of claim 45, wherein a radioactivity shield surrounds portions of the system that are radioactive.

49. (original)The medical radiopharmaceutical administration system of claim 45, wherein the radiotracer further comprises nitrogen-13 ammonia.

50. (original)The medical radiopharmaceutical administration system of claim 45, wherein the radiotracer further comprises fluorodeoxyglucose.

51. (original)The medical radiopharmaceutical administration system of claim 45, wherein each of the plurality of positron emission tomography imaging systems further comprises:

a computer system having a graphical user interface operably coupled to the local area network;

an injector system to extract at least one individual dose from the liquid radiopharmaceutical and to inject the at least one individual dose into the living subject, the injector system being operably coupled to the local area network; and

a physiologic monitoring system operably coupled to the injector system and operably coupled to the living subject.

52. (original)The medical radiopharmaceutical administration system of claim 51, wherein the amount of each individual dose is calculated based type of radiopharmaceutical, a predefined parametric equation, clinical protocol being followed and high level descriptors of the living subject.

53. (original)The medical radiopharmaceutical administration system of claim 52, wherein the high level descriptors of the living subject further comprise the weight, sex and physical dimensions of the living subject.

54. (original)The medical radiopharmaceutical administration system of claim 45, further comprising a chemical synthesizer operably coupled to the dispensing station, to receive a radioisotope, and to produce a radiotracer, and to transfer the radiotracer to the dispensing station.

55. (previously presented)A radiopharmaceutical administration system comprising:
a local area network operably coupled to a plurality of positron emission tomography imaging systems;
a dispensing station to receive a liquid radiopharmaceutical in quantities suitable for multiple doses of the radiopharmaceutical, and to dispense the radiopharmaceutical to the plurality of positron emission tomography imaging systems, the dispensing station being operably coupled to the local area network;

a quality control unit, to monitor the amount of radiochemical and the radionuclic purity of the radiopharmaceutical that is dispensed by the dispensing station, the quality control unit being operably coupled to the local area network and operably coupled to the dispensing station; and a control system operably coupled to the local area network, to receive status information from, and send commands to, the plurality of positron emission tomography imaging systems, the dispensing station, and the quality control unit,

wherein each of the plurality of positron emission tomography imaging systems further comprises:

a computer system having a graphical user interface operably coupled to the local area network;

an injector system to extract at least one individual dose from the liquid radiopharmaceutical and to inject the at least one individual dose into the living subject, the injector system being operably coupled to the local area network; and

a physiologic monitoring system operably coupled to the injector system and operably coupled to the living subject.

56. (original)The radiopharmaceutical administration system of claim 55, wherein the local area network is further operably coupled to a cyclotron and wherein the dispensing station receives the liquid radiopharmaceutical from the cyclotron.

57. (original)The radiopharmaceutical administration system of claim 55, wherein the system further comprises being mounted on wheels.

58. (original)The radiopharmaceutical administration system of claim 55, wherein the radiotracer further comprises being selected from the group consisting of nitrogen-13 ammonia and fluorodeoxyglucose.

59. (original)The radiopharmaceutical administration system of claim 55, wherein the amount of each individual dose is calculated based on type of radiopharmaceutical, a predefined parametric equation, clinical protocol being followed and high level descriptors of the living subject.

60. (original)The radiopharmaceutical administration system of claim 59, wherein the high level descriptors of the living subject further comprise the weight, sex and physical dimensions of the living subject.

61. (previously presented)A medical radiopharmaceutical administration system comprising:

 a local area network operably coupled to a plurality of positron emission tomography imaging systems;

 a dispensing station to receive a liquid radiopharmaceutical in quantities suitable for multiple doses of the radiopharmaceutical, and to dispense the radiopharmaceutical to the plurality of positron emission tomography imaging systems, the dispensing station being operably coupled to the local area network;

 a quality control unit, to monitor the amount of radiochemical and the radionuclic purity of the radiopharmaceutical that is dispensed by the dispensing station, the quality control unit being operably coupled to the local area network and operably coupled to the dispensing station; and

 a control system operably coupled to the local area network, to receive status information from, and send commands to, the plurality of positron

emission tomography imaging systems, the dispensing station, and the quality control unit,

wherein each of the plurality of positron emission tomography imaging systems further comprises:

a computer system having a graphical user interface operably coupled to the local area network;

an injector system to extract at least one individual dose from the liquid radiopharmaceutical and to inject the at least one individual dose into the patient, the injector system being operably coupled to the local area network; and

a physiologic monitoring system operably coupled to the injector system and operably coupled to the patient.

62. (original)The medical radiopharmaceutical administration system of claim 61, wherein the local area network is further operably coupled to a cyclotron and wherein the dispensing station receives the liquid radiopharmaceutical from the cyclotron.

63. (previously presented)The medical radiopharmaceutical administration system of claim 61, wherein the radiopharmaceutical is selected from a group consisting of nitrogen-13, fluorine-18, carbon-11, oxygen-15 and rubidium-82.

64. (original)The medical radiopharmaceutical administration system of claim 61, wherein the amount of each individual dose is calculated based on type of radiopharmaceutical, a predefined parametric equation, clinical protocol being followed and high level descriptors of the patient, and wherein the high level descriptors of the patient further comprise the weight, sex and physical dimensions of the patient.

65. (currently amended)A system comprising:
a local area network operably coupled to a plurality of apparatus operable to perform positron emission tomography imaging systems;
~~apparatus operable to dispense a radiopharmaceutical to the plurality of apparatus operable to perform positron emission tomography imaging systems~~, the apparatus operable to dispense being operably coupled to the local area network;
apparatus operable to monitor the quality of the radiopharmaceutical that is dispensed by the apparatus operable to dispense, the apparatus operable to monitor being operably coupled to the local area network and operably coupled to the apparatus operable to dispense;
apparatus operable to receive status information from the plurality of apparatus operable to perform positron emission tomography imaging systems, the apparatus operable to dispense, and the apparatus operable to monitor, the apparatus operable to receive being operably coupled to the local area network; and
apparatus operable to send commands to the plurality of apparatus operable to perform positron emission tomography imaging systems, the apparatus operable to dispense and the apparatus operable to monitor, the apparatus operable to send being operably coupled to the local area network.

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66. (currently amended)An apparatus comprising:
a computer system having a graphical user interface;
a dispensing station operable to extract individual doses from a multidose vial of a radiopharmaceutical and operably coupled to a plurality of positron emission tomography imaging systems;
an injector operable to inject the individual doses into a patient, the injector system being operably coupled to the computer system; and

a physiologic monitoring system operably coupled to the injector system and operably coupled to the patient.

67. (original)The apparatus of claim 66, wherein the computer system receives data from the physiologic monitoring system, the injector system, a keyboard and the graphical user interface, and sends commands to the injector system.

68. (original)The apparatus of claim 66, wherein the amount of each individual dose is calculated based on the radioactive half-life of the radiopharmaceutical, the projected time of injection into a living subject and high level descriptors of the patient.

69. (original)The apparatus of claim 66, wherein the high level descriptors of the living subject further comprise the weight, sex and physical dimensions of the patient.

70. (currently amended)A positron emission tomography imaging system comprising:

an injector;

a dispensing station operable to extract individual doses of a radiopharmaceutical and distribute each individual dose to the injector
and operably coupled to a plurality of positron emission tomography imaging systems;

a physiologic monitor operably coupled to the injector; and

a positron emission tomography scanner operably coupled to the physiologic monitor and the injector.

71. (original)The positron emission tomography imaging system of claim 70, wherein the injector is operable to inject individual doses of a radiopharmaceutical into a patient.

72. (original)The positron emission tomography imaging system of claim 70, wherein the radiotracer further comprises nitrogen-13 ammonia.

73. (original)The positron emission tomography imaging system of claim 70, wherein the radiotracer further comprises fluorodeoxyglucose.

74. (original)The positron emission tomography imaging system of claim 70, wherein the physiologic monitor is operably to monitor blood pressure and heart activity.

75. (original)The positron emission tomography imaging system of claim 70, wherein the operable coupling is provided by a local area network.

76. (original)The positron emission tomography imaging system of claim 70, further comprising a computer system operably coupled to the local area network, to control dispensing and injection of an individual dose of a radiopharmaceutical into a living subject and to control radiological scanning of the living subject.

77. (previously presented)A computer-accessible medium having executable instructions to manage radiotracer production, the executable instructions capable of directing a processor to perform:
receiving radiotracer material request information;
determining amount of radioactivity needed from the request information;

sending production instructions including the amount of radioactivity and the amount of radiotracer to a cyclotron and a synthesis unit; and sending instructions to the dispensing station; and sending instructions to at least one of a plurality of positron emission tomography imaging systems.

78. (original)The computer-accessible medium of claim 77, wherein the radiotracer request information further comprises the weight, sex and physical dimensions of at least one living subject.

79. (original)The computer-accessible medium of claim 77, wherein the radiotracer further comprises nitrogen-13 ammonia.

80. (original)The computer-accessible medium of claim 77, wherein the radiotracer further comprises fluorodeoxyglucose.

81. (currently amended)A computer-accessible medium having executable instructions to manage radiotracer production, the executable instructions capable of directing a processor to perform:

calculating a required radiotracer dose activity to one of a plurality of positron emission tomography imaging systems;

comparing a total activity available in a multidose portion of the radiotracer to the required radiotracer dose activity; and

notifying of an additional dose activity required and what time of the additional dose activity, if the comparing indicates that there will be a shortage between the required radiotracer dose activity and the total activity available.

82. (original)The computer-accessible medium of claim 81, wherein the notifying further comprises:

notifying an operator of the computer-accessible medium of the additional dose activity required and what time the additional, if the comparing indicates that there will be a shortage.

83. (original)The computer-accessible medium of claim 81, wherein the notifying further comprises:

notifying an outside radioisotope supplier of the additional dose activity required and what time the additional, if the comparing indicates that there will be a shortage.

84. (currently amended)A computer-accessible medium of a control system having executable instructions to manage radiotracer injection, the executable instructions capable of directing a processor to perform:

sending a command to one of a plurality of injectors to inject the radiotracer from an injector into a patient, the command sent from the control system that is operably coupled to a local area network, the local area network being operably coupled to the one of the plurality of injectors;

sending a command to one of a plurality of positron emission tomography imaging systems to initiate scanning of the patient after a first predefined time, the one of the plurality of positron emission tomography imaging systems being operably coupled to the local area network; and

sending a command to the one of the plurality of injectors to introduce a pharmaceutical stress agent into the patient.

85. (currently amended) The computer-accessible medium of claim 84, wherein the computer-accessible medium further comprises instructions capable of directing a processor to perform:

sending a command to the one of the plurality of injectors to inject the radiotracer into patient; and

sending a command to the one of the plurality of positron emission tomography imaging systems to image the patient after a second predefined time.